

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1633

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY RABAT

US MISSION NATO 581

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2760

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MO, SP

SUBJ: SPANISH CONCERN FOR RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO

1. MINISTER OF PRESIDENCY CARRO MARTINEZ RAISED ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE PROBLEM OF MOROCCO IN MY COURTESY CALL ON HIM APRIL 21. HE SAID GOS WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT MOROCCO'S ACTIONS AND BY THE PROBLEMS WHICH U.S. ARMS SUPPLIES TO MOROCCO MAY RAISE. IN HIS VIEW, PROVIDING ARMS TO MOROCCO WOULD ONLY EXACERBATE SITUATION BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ALGERIA AND FURTHER DESTABLIZE SITUATION IN NORTH AFRICA. MINISTER ADDED THAT GOS HAD IMPRESSION THAT USG HAD DECIDED TO SUPPLY ARMS TO MOROCCO TO COUNTER-BALANCE SOVIET INFLUENCE. ALTHOUGH GOS WAS AWARE MOROCCANS ALSO OBTAINED SOME ARMS FROM USSR, GOS DID NOT UNDERSTAND RATIONALE FOR OUR POLICY GIVEN UNSTABLE CIRCUMSTANCES AREA. CARRO SAID SPAIN HAD NO INTEREST WHATSOEVER IN STAYING ON IN SAHARA BUT FELT OBLIGATION TO INSURE THAT SAHARANS THEMSELVES HAD A SAY ABOUT THEIR FUTURE; GOS, THEREFORE, WOULD ABIDE BY UN DECISIONS AND NOT STAND IN WAY OF SAHARAN ASPIRATIONS. SPAIN WASNOT AVERSE TO INCORPORATION OF SAHARA IN MOROCCO, IF THIS WAS DESIRED BY SAHARANS. IT WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN INSURING RESPECT FOR UN DECISIONS AND WISHES OF

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SAHARANS.

2. I TOLD CARRO THAT U.S. POLICY WAS TO BE NEUTRAL IN ISSUES BETWEEN MOROCCO AND SPAIN AND THAT, IN ALL CASES WHERE WE HAD SUPPLIED ARMS TO MOROCCO, WE HAD INFORMED GOS IN DETAIL. IN EXPLAINING OUR POLICY, I SAID THAT IT WAS IN WESTERN INTERESTS FOR U.S. TO HAVE PRESENCE IN MOROCCO AND THAT IF WE DID NOT SUPPLY ARMS, MOROCCO COULD INEVITABLY TURN MORE TO SOVIETS. I SAID THAT WE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFICULTIES IN THIS SITUATION AND GOS COULD BE SURE WE WOULD BE ALERT TO ANY POSSIBLE MOVES WHICH MIGHT CAUSE CONFRONTATION.

3. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GOS REMAINS VERY CONCERNED BY OUR SUPPLY OF ARMS TO MOROCCO, EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE PROVIDED MFA WITH FULL INFO ON THESE DELIVERIES. SPANISH HYPERSENSITIVITY CAN PERHAPS BE EXPLAINED IN PART BY FACT THAT SPAIN IS CONFRONTED BY INTERMITTENT INCIDENTS WITH MOROCCO INVOLVING FISHERIES OR IN SAHARA. THE SUBSEQUENT PUBLICITY ABOUT THESE INCIDENTS KEEPS GOVT UNDER PRESSURE TO MAINTAIN CREDIBILITY OF ITS COMMITMENTS.
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